



ARIZONA WILDFIRE ACADEMY

P.O. Box 2554, Prescott, AZ 86302
Phone: 928-442-3563 Fax: 928-771-0407

Don Howard, Commander
e-mail: dhoward@infomagic.net

Kori Kirkpatrick, Coordinator
e-mail: firecamp@localnet.com

March 24, 2006

Thank you from the firefighters

To the community in and around Prescott:

The staff of the 2006 Arizona Wildfire Academy would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Prescott community for another successful year. Much of that success depends on the support of local agencies, organizations, businesses and community members. This year, with your help, the Academy hosted the largest number of participants ever: more than 1,000 registrants including students, staff, instructors, vendors and trainees. We hosted representatives from 23 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and even had students from Canada and the Virgin Islands.

While participants of the 2006 Academy were in the Prescott area, we estimate that more than \$600,000 was added to the local economy as firefighters stayed in local hotels, ate at local restaurants, and shopped in local stores. However, we hope they contributed more than just economically; we hope they left a good impression of the fire service community and the Arizona Wildfire Academy as well.

The Prescott community has welcomed us with open arms for the past four years and has even provided a permanent home for the Arizona Wildfire Academy. With its new office on Gurley Street, the Academy not only has greater visibility but also plans to be more involved in wildfire prevention and defensible space education throughout the year. Also new in 2006, Yavapai College committed to offering college credit for classes taken at the Arizona Wildfire Academy; this credit is good for courses leading to an associate's degree at YC or is transferable to other institutions. Another first in 2006 was the Academy inviting the local community to join firefighters at its annual barbeque, which was held at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. We are committed to building our relationship with the Prescott community and will continually seek opportunities to involve you in future Academy events.

This type of training event takes a large amount of coordination, assistance and support from the community. While it is impossible to thank everyone, we do want to point out a few organizations that have provided continuing support to the Arizona Wildfire Academy: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Yavapai County, City of Prescott, Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission, Prescott Chamber of Commerce, Prescott Resort, Ponderosa Fire Advisory Council, Prescott Fire Department, Prescott National Forest, Fire DAWG, Red Cross and Prescott Pines. The support we receive from your community is the main reason we are able to make this one of the best wildfire training events in the country.

Thank you,
Staff, Instructors and Students of the 2006 Arizona Wildfire Academy